



Report on Implementation of The Cultural Strategy.

Two examples of projects and a policy initiative.

The recent production of a re-imagined approach to 'The Passion' demonstrates very clearly the new 'joined up' approach to culture that Libraries, the Area Office, the Arts Office and the Events Unit are engaging in. Here the community of Ballyfermot worked closely with all these sections and Dublin Culture Connects provided key production support to empower local people's work with the professional theatre company Brokentaklers in a major public showing of this work indoor and outdoor, at Ballyfermot Library and throughout the streets of the village.

Along with the other projects under Dublin Culture Connects, Dublin City Council is very well prepared and placed to engage in the Creative Ireland initiative by Government led by Libraries.

This project has led to the following reflections.

Relevance: Arts and Culture can help to address neighbourhood and community concerns and provide 'safe spaces to disagree' essential to a Local Authority and key to local governance. Concentrating on relevance does not preclude other approaches to the Arts.

Partnership: with citizens their representatives and projects is essential and must be authentic

A sense of Place and Belonging: is central to city life and diversity of cultural, expression and acceptance of all forms of culture is one of the means whereby this is achieved.

Imagination and creativity: are key lifelong abilities that help to transform difficulties to opportunity

Local, municipal, national and international are connected.

On the direction of the Assistant Chief Executive the City Arts Office has facilitated the Department of Arts Heritage Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs, The Arts Council and the Planning and Development Department of Dublin City Council to form a non statutory Working Group whose draft purpose is: to share knowledge, intelligence and working practice from each organisation in such a way as to inform common approaches to the use, development and funding (both capital and revenue) of new or already existing buildings that are suitable or intended for cultural or artistic use in Dublin. The Working Group will identify agreed principles, best practice, and new approaches that lead to a clearer understanding of how best to approach cultural development in Dublin within the City Development Plan, Arts Council, and National Policy.

**Ray Yeates,
City Arts Officer.**